

genuine benefit, just as they are ready to undergo a long, unpleasant, and noisy railway journey in order to reach some particular spot, say on the Continent or in Scotland, where they hope to have a good time. For my own part, although I should never dream of calling myself anything but a bad sailor, I confess that, of the two forms of discomfort, I prefer a somewhat bad sea voyage to a night, or perhaps even a couple of nights, in a railway carriage. This, however, is a matter of taste, and questions of taste proverbially do not admit of profitable discussion. The main point to be considered is whether the discomforts and inconveniences inseparable from a long journey, whether by sea or land, are likely to be compensated for by the benefit which may be expected to be received—whether, in short, the play is worth the candle; and on this point I can only give my own experience for what it may be worth.

Being, as I have said, a bad sailor, and having chanced on an unusually unlucky passage, and suffered very considerably in consequence, I was nevertheless so charmed and delighted with a very brief stay at Hillswick that I should very willingly have

undertaken the same journey again immediately after my return, and I certainly look forward with the utmost pleasure to my next visit to the place. And life is full of compensations. Having had a very uncomfortable northward journey, I was fortunate enough to return southward under almost ideal conditions. The sea, if not perhaps exactly “as calm as a leek,” as the Shetland fishermen say, was so little vexed with disturbing breezes that only a very bad sailor could have experienced any feeling of discomfort during any part of the return voyage.

The new hotel has a distinctly picturesque appearance, being built, with the necessary exception of the chimney-stalks and the kitchen and offices thereto appertaining, entirely of wood. The nut-brown colour of the outer wooden walls is grateful to the eye, and the yellow brick chimneys and gray-blue slates of the roof afford a pleasant contrast. The position of the house has been admirably chosen. It faces south, and the views in that direction and to the west are very charming. A great many of the bedrooms command one or other of these views. The picture to the